

English E/III-A Reading Instruction and Practice Activities

Reading Strategy: Drawing Conclusions

Today, we are going to practice **drawing conclusions** (結論を下す). This means that the reader takes all the information from a reading passage and then tries to make a **logical guess** as to what that information might mean. This analysis of information is one of the most important BUT difficult aspects of reading (especially reading in a foreign language) because not only do you have to *understand* the reading material but you have to be able to make *intelligent guesses* about how this information is connected to the deeper meaning. This deeper meaning often more important than the meaning of individual words and phrases. For example, what conclusion can you draw from the following sentences.

(a) The police are inspecting the damage on two cars. (b) A woman is very embarrassed. (c) A man is very angry.

or **a + b + c = Conclusion**

You should be able to draw the conclusion that there was a traffic accident and that the woman's car probably hit the man's car. Unfortunately, this deeper meaning is often not stated in a reading passage and it is the responsibility of the reader to draw conclusions on their own. Today we will practice finding the deeper meaning in several different reading passages. You should also do this on your own *whenever* you are reading.

Activity 1 Look at the following pieces of information and answer the questions.

a. I went to college for many years. b. I wear a long white coat. c. I see many "clients" every day. d. People don't call me Mr. or Mrs.	I am a person. Who am I? _____
a. I am the first month of my season. b. I have warm, humid weather. c. I can see fireflies. d. I have no national holidays.	I am a month. What month am I? _____
a. My name means "peaceful." b. I am the largest of my kind. c. I touch many countries. d. I am 3 km deep and 17,000 km wide.	I am a place. What am I? _____
a. No one can see me. b. I never go backwards. c. Most people don't have enough of me. d. Some people use the sun to find me.	I am a thing. What am I? _____

Activity 2 Read the passage and then work **WITH YOUR GROUP** to find the best answer.

In South America there is a kind of monkey that has an interesting way of showing when it isn't feeling well. It's called the <i>uakari</i> . When the <i>uakari</i> is healthy, its bald head is very red. If the animal becomes sick, its head becomes pinker. Unfortunately, if you see a <i>uakari</i> in a zoo, they usually have pink heads.	From this story you can conclude that: ___ (1) <i>uakaris</i> grow bald in zoos. ___ (2) animals in zoos change color when they are sick. ___ (3) <i>uakari</i> means "healthy" in a South American language. ___ (4) some animals need to be free to be healthy.
In Alaska, the family "car" is often a small airplane. Nearly everyone in Alaska flies - college students to classes, doctors to patients, and business people to customers. More than three-quarters of the people use airplanes regularly. Those who live in this huge state are called "the flyingest people in the world."	From this passage you can conclude that: ___ (1) people in Alaska can't drive cars. ___ (2) for people in Alaska, flying is more convenient than driving. ___ (3) people in Alaska like to look at airplanes. ___ (4) people in Alaska hate small cars.

Activity 3

Read the following passage and then work **WITH YOUR GROUP** to draw your own conclusions about the passage.

The Great Wall of China is the longest wall in the world. It winds over the hills of northern China for more than 1,000 kilometers. Though the wall was built entirely by hand two thousand years ago, parts of it can still be seen today. On the top of the three-meter wall are guard towers every two to three hundred meters where soldiers use to watch the surrounding area.

From this passage you can conclude that:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Activity 4 Reading Aloud

With your group, read today's articles *out loud*. Take turns reading the articles sentence by sentence. Try to read each sentence from start to finish as smoothly as possible. Don't read like a robot and don't use KATAKANA ENGLISH.

Activity 5 With your group, use these questions to help you draw conclusions about today's article.

1. Why do you think Americans are so concerned with "beauty?"

2. Why do you think Americans would spend ten dollars to go to a tanning salon?

3. Why do you think Americans spend so much money getting their teeth fixed?

4. Why do you think beauty pageants are so popular in America?

Activity 6: Group Discussion

For the time remaining, discuss the following questions with your group. I expect everyone to participate by stating their opinions on each question, showing agreement or disagreement with your classmates opinions, and asking questions whenever you feel necessary. All discussions, must be in ENGLISH! If you get stuck and can't say what is in on your mind, ask your classmates or me for help.

1. Who is the most beautiful woman and most handsome man you know of?
2. Do you think it is important to be "fashionable?" Why/Why not?
3. Do you think you are beautiful or handsome? What is the most attractive part of your body?
4. If you could change any part of your body with plastic surgery, what would you change?
5. Have you ever seen a beauty pageant? What did you think?
6. Why do you think beauty pageants are mostly for girls or women? Why aren't there "Mr. America" pageants?
7. Do you think it is right for a young girl to have the dream to be a beauty queen? Why/Why not?
8. (your question) _____
9. (your question) _____

Activity 7 Discussion Summary

Take a few minutes and think about what you and your group mates discussed in class.

Then, write a summary of your discussion. Please use all the space available.

Score: _____ /10

[illegible]